

## BOUCHER SECURES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR APPALACHIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### ***\$22,325 Federal Grant Will Enable Purchase of New Firefighting Equipment***

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□□□□□□□□□□(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through its Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$22,325 to the Appalachia Volunteer Fire Department.

**“This provision of federal funding will enable the Appalachia Volunteer Fire Department to purchase new equipment, providing an added measure of safety for its members,”** Boucher said.

With the benefit of the federal funds, the Appalachia Volunteer Fire Department will purchase six dry water suits for its swift water rescue team. Currently, the team is only equipped with wet suits that do not protect them from temperatures below 50 degrees. The new suits will keep the members of the swift water rescue team dry during cold water rescues. Additi onally, the Department will purchase 10 portable radios to replace older models and 1,000 feet of fire hose to replace aging fire hose currently in use.

The Appalachia Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection to an 82 square mile radius including the Town of Appalachia and the surrounding areas of Wise County. The Department has 21 members, all of whom serve on a voluntary basis.

**"I am pleased that the Department of Homeland Security has provided this funding to the Appalachia Volunteer Fire Department. It is important to ensure that our fire and rescue personnel have access to the best equipment and today's announcement will help further this goal,"** Boucher concluded.

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